

CIA



UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

WASHINGTON

SECRET/LIMDIS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

June 21, 1971

SUBJECT : REF/RL in the German-American Information Talks

PLACE : Annapolis, Maryland

TIME : Saturday Afternoon, June 19, 1971

PARTICIPANTS: German Delegation

Conrad Ahlers, State Secretary, German Federal
Press and Information Office

Dr. Martin Schoett, Chief, North America Desk,
German Federal Press and Information Office

Hans Kahle, Press Counselor, German Embassy, Wash.

Carl Maes, Cultural Officer, German Embassy, Wash.

Dr. Julius Hoffman, Director, German Information
Center, New York

U. S. Delegation

Frank Shakespeare, Director, USIA

Edward Weintal, Consultant to the Director, USIA

Arthur S. Hoffman, Chief, Plans and Operational
Policy Staff, USIA

Samuel R. Gammon, Deputy Assistant Director (Europe),
USIA

Eric Feller, Office of Assistant Director (Europe), USIA

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State Dept. review completed

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Mr. Weintal raised RFE/RL following the discussion of the image of Germany in the U. S. He pointed out that Senator Case's bill had elicited a degree of hostility to it from American citizens of Eastern European origin which had surprised Case. He wondered whether the FRG was aware of the risks which this fact suggests of appearing, correctly or not, in any way to be responsible for shutting down the stations.

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In reply, Mr. Ahlers said about the position of RFE/RL "We plan no change." He asked only that the station directors soften their output on a few minor things, especially the treatment of Polish political personalities. Noting that RFE had during the labor troubles called Polish Premier Gierek a "bloodhound," he said that invective of this degree did little to accomplish station objectives and made unnecessary trouble with the Poles. Ahlers noted that the issue of the Olympic Games is dead, commenting that he is prepared to tell Eastern countries threatening to abstain from appearing to go ahead; they would leave more medals for those participating! He stated that the FRG would take great pains not to appear to be in any position of contributing to the demise of the stations, noting that "We are in clear accord with the CIA."

I had a talk with Ahlers on this three days prior to the meeting

Mr. Shakespeare then reviewed the Congressional difficulties resulting from the tactical situation surrounding the Case bill. He pointed out that Senator Fulbright's refusing to clear new legislation to regularize the stations effectively interlocked with Senator Ellender's position of prohibiting further funds for the stations without new legislation.

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Replying to a direct question from Mr. Weintal concerning his opinion of the efficacy of the two stations, Mr. Ahlers stated "They are the most effective weapon we have."

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CIA - To be transmitted by IEE
EUR - Mr. Davies
EUR/GER - Mr. Sutterlin

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